

## Message Text

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14  
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00

      DOTE-00 COME-00 EUR-12 PRS-01 USIA-06 DLOS-06 /049 W  
                              ----- 123508

R 052350Z NOV 76  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0416  
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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DEPT. PASS NMFA, NOAA, COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EFIS PLOS KS US  
SUBJ: MEDIA COVERAGE OF ROK/US GIFA DISCUSSIONS AND OTHER  
      FISHERY ISSUES

REF: SEOUL 8683

1. THE ROK/US GIFA DISCUSSIONS AT SEOUL OCTOBER 26-28,  
WITH THE CONCURRENT USIS NORTHERN PACIFIC FISHERIES DEVELOP-  
MENT ASSOCIATION SEMINAR OCTOBER 28, 1976, ATTRACTED MAJOR MEDIA  
REPORTING AND COMMENTARY ON THE EFFECTS FOR KOREA OF P.L. 94-265,  
THE FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976.

2. ALTHOUGH THE SEMINAR WAS LIMITED TO THE INDUSTRY AND GOVERN-  
MENT OFFICIALS, THE FORMAL OPENING OF THE ROK/GIFA TALKS  
WAS CARRIED ON THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED KBS-TV AND THE SAME FOOTAGE  
REPEATED IN CONNECTION WITH ROUNDUP REPORTS AT THE CONCLUSION  
OF THE TALKS. COMMERCIAL RADIO/TV AND ALL NEWSPAPERS REPORTED  
DAILY ON THE TALKS AND MOST JOURNALS HAVE ALSO PRESENTED  
FEATURE ARTICLES OR EDITORIALS SINCE THE MEETINGS.

3. REPORTING WAS BASED ON FOREIGN MINISTRY BACKGROUND BRIEFINGS  
AND WAS FACTUAL ALTHOUGH SKETCHY AND IMPRECISE ON THE ACTUAL  
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CONTENTS OF THE GIFA DRAFT TO WHICH THE US DELEGATION IS

ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN KOREAN AGREEMENT. AMONG ENGLISH LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS, THE OFFICIAL KOREA HERALD PREDICTABLY PRESENTED THE MOST EXTENSIVE AND ACCURATE REPORTING IN AN OBJECTIVE TONE. NEVERTHELESS, COMMENTARIES REFLECTED CONSIDERABLE DISMAY AND CRITICISM OF:

A. THE "...UNILATERAL ACT AND EXTORTION..."

B. THE DELEGATION'S REFUSAL TO DISCUSS QUOTAS.

C. THE POSSIBILITY THAT CONSERVATION MEASURES MIGHT BE APPLIED SOLELY FOR U.S. BENEFIT AND NOT FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL COUNTRIES.

D. THE EXCESSIVE PENALTIES ON KOREAN VESSELS RECENTLY FOUND IN VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENT.

E. THE EXPECTATION THAT THE US WILL GIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION TO JAPAN AND THE USSR IN QUOTA ALLOCATION "WHILE ALMOST SIDELINING KOREA."

4. EDITORIALS STRESSED KOREAN NEED FOR A 200,000 TON QUOTA OF POLLOCK AND INVARIABLY CONCLUDED WITH SUPPLICATIONS FOR HUMANITARIAN UNDERSTANDING AND GENEROUS COOPERATION BY THE U.S. IN CONCLUDING NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WILL "DECIDE THE FATE OF KOREAN FISHING OPERATIONS IN THE NORTHERN PACIFIC." KYUNGHYANG SINMUN NOTED THAT "...IF THE U.S. IS UNABLE TO SETTLE ITS DIFFERENCES WITH THE ROK, WHICH IS ONE OF THE CLOSEST ALLIES OF THE U.S., THERE WILL (SURELY) BE DIFFICULTIES IN FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES."

5. PRESS REPORTS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE-FISHERIES COMMITTEE INTERPELLATIONS NOVEMBER 2 INDICATE THAT ADMIRAL SHIN TAE-YONG, DIRECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF FISHERIES AFFAIRS, WAS ASKED BY AN OPPOSITION MEMBER (PAK PYONG-HYO, NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY) TO PROVIDE DETAILS ABOUT THE FINES AND "DETENTION" OF DONGWAN 707 AND KWANGMONG-HO 21 BY THE U.S. AND WHY THE ROKG HAD NOT ENTERED AN APPEAL AGAINST SUCH HARSH AND UNREASONABLE TREATMENT. SHIN REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED THAT THE ROKG HAD JUDGED THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF KOREAN VESSELS SHOULD CONTINUE TO FISH IN THE AREA AND THEREFORE IT WISHED NOT TO RUFFLE FRIENDLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. (EVIDENTLY BY A COURT ACTION).

6. KOREA WONYANG REPRESENTATIVE (LIM, JEE HWAN) INFORMED EMBOFF THAT THE YUSHIN HO MOTHERSHIP HAS RETURNED TO PUSAN WITH POOR RESULTS FOR ITS EFFORTS IN THE EAST BERING SEA. HE WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION.

7. COMMENT: THERE IS REAL FEAR THAT KOREAN FISHERMEN MAY IN

A REASONABLY SHORT SPAN OF TIME FIND THEMSELVES SHUT OUT OF BOTH US AND USSR SIDES OF THE NORTHERN PACIFIC FISHING GROUNDS. JAPAN, OF COURSE, WILL BE UNABLE TO HELP BECAUSE IT HAS ITS OWN GREAT NEED AND NO CONTROL OVER THE PRIME POLLACK FISHERIES. THEREFORE, KOREANS PERCEIVE THAT THE UNITED STATES ALONE HOLDS THE KEY TO THE SURVIVAL OF THE BULK OF THEIR INDUSTRY. ALTHOUGH THEY ACCEPT THE POWER OF THE USG AND THE NEED FOR CONSERVATION OF OVERFISHED RESOURCES, THEY ARE DISTURBED BY THE UNILATERAL FORMAT OF THE GIFA AND THE CHAUVINISTIC ATTITUDES OF THE STATE AND INDUSTRIAL SECTORS OF THE REGIONAL MANAGEMENT COUNCILS. MOREOVER, THE ABSENCE OF INFORMATION ON QUOTAS AND UNCERTAINTY ABOUT HOW JAPAN AND THE USSR WILL DEAL WITH THE US GIFA DENIES THEM THE OPPORTUNITY OF DEVELOPING EVEN A PRAGMATIC PLAN FOR COPING WITH THE SITUATION CREATED BY P.L. 94-265. THE DISCUSSION OF SEIZURES IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IS OF NO SIGNIFICANCE. IT REPRESENTS THE USUAL MISGUIDED SELF-SEEKING OF LEE HAK SOO, PRESIDENT OF KOREA WONYANG, WHO MAY HOPE THAT SOME SYMPATHY MAY MITIGATE THE ANGER DIRECTED TOWARD HIM BY THE ROK FISHING COMMUNITY BOTH FOR HIS DESPATCH OF THE YUSHIN-HO FLEET AS WELL AS HIS VESSEL'S UNTIMELY VIOLATIONS OF THE US/ROK AGREEMENT.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FISHERIES MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 NOV 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1976SEOUL08896  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION OES  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 SEOUL 8683  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MEDIA COVERAGE OF ROK/US GIFA DISCUSSIONS AND OTHER FISHERY ISSUES  
**TAGS:** EFIS, PLOS, OCON, KS, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006